GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:831
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
INCREASE IN OIL IMPORT BILL
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Oil import bill may touch $ 16 billion,` as appearing in the `Hindu` dated June 6,2000;

(b) if so, whether the country`s oil import bill is likely to increase to $ 16 billion this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the policy and initiatives taken by the Government to reduce the oil import bill remain ineffective;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to save the foreign exchange on this count?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): The oil import bill depends on the overall consumption, indigenous production and prices of petroleum products and crude oil in the international market. To contain oil import bill, steps have been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.